## Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

- 1. (original) A PTC element comprising a sheet-like body made of a polymer PTC material, and first and second electrodes formed on a surface or surfaces of the sheet-like body, characterized in that the PTC element is provided with a space which at least partially traverses the sheet-like body in its thickness direction.
- 2. (original) The PTC element according to claim 1, wherein the space is at least partially defined by an inner wall of a through hole which extends through the sheet-like body.
- 3. (currently amended) The PTC element according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the first and second electrodes are formed distant from each other on the same sheet surface of the sheet-like body.
- 4. (currently amended) The PTC element according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the first and second electrodes are respectively formed on a pair of opposed sheet surfaces of the sheet-like body, so as not to overlap each other as they are seen by being projected in the thickness direction of the sheet-like body.
- 5. (currently amended) The PTC element according to <u>claim</u> any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the space is located within a region surrounded by an outer periphery of the electrode as <u>it is</u> they are seen by being projected in the thickness direction of the sheet-like body.
- 6. (original) The PTC element according to claim 5, wherein the space penetrates at least one of the electrodes.
- 7. (original) A starter circuit for a fluorescent lamp, comprising a polymer PTC element.
- 8. (currently amended) The circuit according to claim 7, wherein comprising the PTC element comprises a sheet-like body made of a polymer PTC material, and first and second electrodes formed on a surface or surfaces of the sheet-like body, characterized in that the PTC element is provided with a space which at least partially traverses the sheet-like body in its thickness direction according to any of claims 1 to 6, as the polymer PTC element.